

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1914

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creation of the Texas Health Improvement Network.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle H, Title 2, Health & Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 172 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 172. Texas Health Improvement Network

Sec.172.001. PURPOSE. (a) The Texas Health Improvement Network (THIN) is established as a network of diverse health professionals dedicated to developing initiatives and translating research on population health into health policy and best practices to address urgent health challenges in Texas and the nation.

(b) The network shall achieve the following goals to improve the health system:

(1) reduce the per capita costs of health care;

(2) improve the individual experience of care (including quality and patient satisfaction); and

(3) improve the health of Texas.

Sec. 172.002. NETWORK. (a) The network consists of participating faculty at public and private Texas institutions of higher education, in addition to participating state and local health agencies. Participating faculty must include faculty of both general academic and health-related institutions.

(b) The network shall seek to include faculty that represents not only the traditional public health and medical

1 fields, but also expertise on mental health, nursing, pharmacy,  
2 social work, health economics, health policy and law, epidemiology,  
3 biostatistics, health informatics, health services research,  
4 engineering and computer science.

5 (c) The network shall focus on evaluating and eliminating  
6 health disparities in Texas, including the racial or ethnic,  
7 geographic, and income- or education-related disparities.

8 (d) The network shall also focus on healthcare  
9 cost-containment and the economic analysis of health policy.

10 Sec. 172.003. ADVISORY COUNCIL. An advisory council shall  
11 be established for the network that includes both Texas and  
12 national thought leaders in population health. The advisory  
13 council must include expertise in traditional public health and  
14 medical fields, as well as leaders in the fields of behavior health,  
15 business, insurance, philanthropy, education, health law, and  
16 policy.

17 Sec. 172.004. PROJECTS. (a) From funds appropriated for  
18 purposes of the network, the network shall fund demonstration and  
19 pilot projects using an established, peer-reviewed award process.

20 (b) The network shall fund internships and other educational  
21 programs to prepare population health care workforce.

22 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
23 the vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.